



## SUMMARY

Public Utilities Code §§ 8389(d)(4), related to catastrophic wildfires, requires the following:

- (d) By December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the [C]ommission, after consultation with the division [Energy Safety],<sup>[2]</sup> shall adopt and approve ... the following:
  - (4) A process for the division to conduct annual safety culture assessment for each electrical corporation.

Pursuant to § 8389(d)(4), this Resolution approves Energy Safety's Safety Culture Assessment Process which provides specific requirements for electrical corporations to participate in Energy Safety's annual safety culture assessment. The proposed Safety Culture Assessment Process maintains the existing scope with an additional requirement for all electrical corporations to provide an update on their implementation of the previous year's safety culture assessment recommendations.

Energy Safety's proposals related to § 8389(d)(4) is contained within this Resolution in the following Attachment:

- **Attachment 1: 2023 Safety Culture Assessment Process**  
Energy Safety recommends adding an additional requirement for electrical corporations to provide an update on implementation of the previous year's safety culture assessment recommendations along with the existing requirements. Energy Safety will develop Safety Culture Assessment Guidelines with more granularity subsequent to the Commission's adoption of this Resolution.

## DISCUSSION

### **1. Energy Safety's Recommendations on Safety Culture Assessment Process**

The process Energy Safety proposes for 2023 is similar to the process it conducted in 2021 and 2022, with minor modifications. One modification is the addition of the requirement for all electrical corporations to provide an update on implementation of the previous year's safety culture assessment recommendations. Energy Safety will take the

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<sup>2</sup> The "division" refers to the Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) which transitioned from the California Public Utilities Commission to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) on July 1, 2021.

implementation updates into account in its assessment of the electrical corporations' safety culture. Energy Safety plans to incorporate lessons learned each year to improve the safety culture assessment process for consideration by the Commission pursuant to Public Utilities Code § 8389(d)(4).

## **2. Discussion**

The proposed safety culture assessment process provides the foundation for Energy Safety to evaluate electrical corporations' leadership influence, workforce perceptions and behaviors, and the organizational efforts in improving their sustaining systems, governance, and safety-enabling systems. Energy Safety focuses its assessment on safety performance in the context of wildfire mitigation and recognizes that Energy Safety's safety culture assessment is complementary to a broader safety culture assessment the Commission will conduct under Public Utilities Code § 8386.2.<sup>3</sup>

Energy Safety assesses electrical corporations' safety culture based on three principal inputs: (1) a workforce survey targeted at the wildfire mitigation workers, (2) a management self-assessment and summary plan for the coming year, and (3) objectives and lessons learned. The proposed Safety Culture Assessment Process requires electrical corporations to submit reports describing their assessment process, findings from the surveys mentioned above, summaries of strengths and opportunities for growth in the electrical corporations' safety culture. The report shall also include detailed recommendations that are specific, actionable, verifiable and informed by industry best practices.

The Commission review Energy Safety's proposed goals and objectives, framework and scope and process and adopts the 2023 Safety Culture Assessment Process attached hereto as Attachment 1 pursuant to § 8389(d)(4).

## **COMMENTS**

Public. Utilities. Code § 311(g)(1) provides that resolutions must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. However, given that this Resolution is issued outside of a formal proceeding, interested stakeholders need not have party status in a Commission proceeding in order to submit comments. Comments are due 20 days from the mailing date of this Resolution. Replies will not be accepted.

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<sup>3</sup> Pub. Util. Code § 8386.2 The Commission shall require a safety culture assessment of each electrical corporation to be conducted by an independent third-party evaluator. The Commission shall set the schedule for each assessment, including updates to the assessment at least every five years. The electrical corporation shall not seek reimbursement for the costs of the assessment from ratepayers.

This draft Resolution was served on the service list of R.18-10-007, noticed on the Commission's Daily Calendar, and will be placed on the Commission's agenda no earlier than 30 days from today.

### **FINDINGS**

1. Public. Utilities. Code § 8389(d)(4) requires the Commission to adopt, after consultation with Energy Safety, a Safety Culture Assessment Process. This Resolution with its Attachment meets each of the foregoing requirements.
2. Energy Safety's proposed 2023 Safety Culture Assessment Process adding an additional requirement for update on implementation of safety culture assessment recommendations along with the existing requirements as set forth in Attachment 1, hereto, is reasonable.
3. Energy Safety's recommendations contained in Attachment 1 regarding the Safety Culture Assessment Process reasonably address the requirements of Public Utilities Code § 8389(d)(4).

### **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's recommendations are hereby adopted for the Safety Culture Assessment Process for 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plans.

This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed, and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on December 1, 2022; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

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Rachel Peterson  
Executive Director

Attachment 1:  
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety 2023 Safety Culture Assessment Process